General Assembly

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29 February 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 56 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/421/Add.2)*]

62/200. International Year of Astronomy, 2009

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Aware that astronomy is one of the oldest basic sciences and that it has contributed and still contributes fundamentally to the evolution of other sciences and applications in a wide range of fields,

Recognizing that astronomical observations have profound implications for the development of science, philosophy, culture and the general conception of the universe,

Noting that, although there is a general interest in astronomy, it is often difficult for the general public to gain access to information and knowledge on the subject,

Conscious that each society has developed legends, myths and traditions concerning the sky, the planets and the stars which form part of its cultural heritage,

Welcoming resolution 33 C/25 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 19 October 2005[1] to express its support for the declaration of 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy, with a view to highlighting the importance of astronomical sciences and their contribution to knowledge and development,

Noting that the International Astronomical Union has been supporting the initiative since 2003 and that it will act to grant the project the widest impact,

Convinced that the Year could play a crucial role, inter alia, in raising public awareness of the importance of astronomy and basic sciences for sustainable development, promoting access to the universal knowledge of fundamental science through the excitement generated by the subject of astronomy, supporting formal and informal science education in schools as well as through science centres and

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, 33rd session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. V.

museums and other relevant means, stimulating a long-term increase in student enrolment in the fields of science and technology, and supporting scientific literacy,

1. *Decides* to declare 2009 the International Year of Astronomy;

2. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency and focal point for the Year, and invites it to organize, in this capacity, activities to be realized during the Year, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, the International Astronomical Union, the European Southern Observatory and astronomical societies and groups throughout the world, and, in this regard, notes that the activities of the Year will be funded from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to promote actions at all levels aimed at increasing awareness among the public of the importance of astronomical sciences and promoting widespread access to new knowledge and experiences of astronomical observation.

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/421/Add.2)*]

62/201. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 60/205 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also its resolution 61/207 of 20 December 2006 and its reference to science and technology,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[2]

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development, and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries in accessing the potential benefits of information and communications technologies,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See A/60/687 and A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I.

[3] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in establishing a network of centres of excellence in science and technology for developing countries and in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network on biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,[4]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Encouraging the development of initiatives to promote private sector engagement in technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation,

1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(*a*) To strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(*b*) To promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to, and development, transfer and diffusion of, technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(*c*) To assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(*d*) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

(*e*) To implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(*f*) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum within which to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[2] and to address within its mandate, in accordance with Council resolution 2006/46, the special needs of developing

[4] A/62/136.

countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communications technologies and environmental management;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in their national development strategies;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

6. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

7. *Encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of regional, subregional and interregional joint research and development projects by, where feasible, mobilizing existing scientific and research and development resources and by networking sophisticated scientific facilities and research equipment;

8. *Encourages* the international community to continue to facilitate, in view of the difference in level of development between countries, an adequate diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to, and acquisition of technology for developing countries, under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms, in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society;

9. *Calls for* continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies.

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Agenda item 56 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/421/Add.3)*]

62/202. Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions 58/205 of 23 December 2003, 59/242 of 22 December 2004, 60/207 of 22 December 2005 and 61/209 of 20 December 2006,

Welcoming the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[1]

Welcoming also the convening of the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in Jordan, from 10 to 14 December 2006, and stressing the need for States parties to take steps to implement the outcome of that Conference,

Bearing in mind the importance of the work carried out by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working groups on asset recovery, review of implementation and technical assistance,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] which underlined that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3]

Convinced that a stable and transparent environment for national and international commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

resources, and recognizing that effective efforts at all levels to prevent and combat corruption in all its forms in all countries are essential elements of an improved national and international business environment,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger, and economic and sustainable development,

Emphasizing the need for solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and the need to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of domestic administration and public spending and the rule of law, to ensure full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and to eradicate corruption and build sound economic and social institutions,

Recalling that the fight against all forms of corruption requires strong institutions at all levels, including at the local level, able to undertake efficient preventive and law enforcement measures consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular chapters II and III,

Recognizing the concern about the laundering and the transfer and/or transaction of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Concerned about the links between corruption in all its forms, including bribery, corruption-related money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime,

Noting the particular concern of developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the return of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption, in particular to countries from which they originated, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular chapter V, in view of the importance that such assets can have to their sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Expresses concern* about the magnitude of corruption at all levels, including the scale of the transfer of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption, and in this regard reiterates its commitment to preventing and combating corrupt practices at all levels, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[1]

3. *Condemns* corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin;

4. *Encourages* all Governments to prevent, combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicitly

[4] A/62/116.

acquired assets, and to work for the prompt return of such assets through asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

5. *Invites* Member States to work on the identification and tracing of financial flows linked to corruption, the freezing or seizing of assets derived from corruption and the return of such assets, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourages the promotion of human and institutional capacity-building in this regard;

6. *Stresses* the importance of mutual legal assistance, and encourages Member States to enhance international cooperation, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

7. *Welcomes* the high number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in this regard urges all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations, within the limits of their competence, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and calls upon all States parties to fully implement the Convention as soon as possible;

8. *Calls upon* States parties, and encourages other Member States, to support the initiatives adopted at the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular the work carried out by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working groups on asset recovery, review of implementation and technical assistance in order to facilitate the full implementation of the Convention, and the review thereof, and in this regard stresses the importance of the adoption of relevant legislation consistent with the Convention;

9. *Encourages* all States parties that have not yet done so to submit information through the self-assessment checklist as a follow-up mechanism to the first session of the Conference of the States Parties;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms, including in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws and to implement effective measures at the national level and, in accordance with domestic law and policies, at the local level, to prevent and combat corruption;

11. *Takes note* of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank, and welcomes the cooperation of the Office with relevant partners, including the International Centre for Asset Recovery;

12. *Urges* all Member States, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption;

13. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate financial and human resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and also encourages the Office to give high priority to technical cooperation, upon

request, inter alia, to promote and facilitate the ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to and the implementation of the Convention;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, in accordance with its mandate;

15. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V, and to support national efforts in formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting transparency and integrity in both the public and private sectors;

17. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to require financial institutions to properly implement comprehensive due diligence and vigilance programmes, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and those of other relevant applicable instruments;

18. *Calls upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, welcomes the agreement to add anti-corruption as the tenth principle of the Global Compact, and emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability;

19. *Takes note* of the generous offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at Nusa Dua, Bali, from 28 January to 1 February 2008, and invites all States parties and signatories to take measures aimed at enhancing the full and effective implementation of the Convention;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, from within existing resources, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, also encompassing relevant reports from the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption", bearing in mind the possibility of reviewing the future consideration of this sub-item.

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